

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 308

By Hill M

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Edward Cole,
commending his meritorious service during
World War II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our state and nation, the distinguished military service of each and every proud Tennessean should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored, especially those honorable military veterans who served during World War II; and

WHEREAS, John Edward Cole was one such individual who served with valor and distinction during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cole was born in Deridder, Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, on November 11, 1909, but he called Johnson City, Tennessee, his hometown; and

WHEREAS, John Cole served as a Third Assistant Engineer with the U.S. Merchant Marines on the SS James Oglethorpe; his service number was Z-97086; and

WHEREAS, in the Battle of St. Patrick's Day (Convoy HX-229) on March 17, 1943, Mr. Cole was one of many on board the SS James Oglethorpe who lost their lives when it was sunk by German Submarine U-758 in the Mid-North Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cole was lost at sea that day and was declared to be missing in action;
and

WHEREAS, John Cole served with great bravery and ability in the military, sacrificing his
life to preserve the lives of his fellow countrymen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cole performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery in the line of fire and his dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor the memory of John Edward Cole to the full extent of our ability, as he made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of John Edward Cole, commending his meritorious service in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.